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The President's Daily Brief

March 2, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~

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Exempt from general
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exemption category 58(1)(2)(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

March 2, 1976

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USSR

The impact of last year's harvest failure is being increasingly felt by Soviet consumers.

Our embassy in Moscow reports that food shortages in rural areas are a main topic of conversation in the Soviet capital. Residents of the city are being appealed to by friends and acquaintances to "bring or send bread, meat, and milk." The Moscow "man on the street" has been irritated further because food shortages are not receiving attention at the party congress.

Other recent reports indicate that food supplies in rural areas are continuing to deteriorate, while supplies in urban areas still appear adequate. Despite massive imports of grain, feed shortages are still causing slaughtering of livestock.



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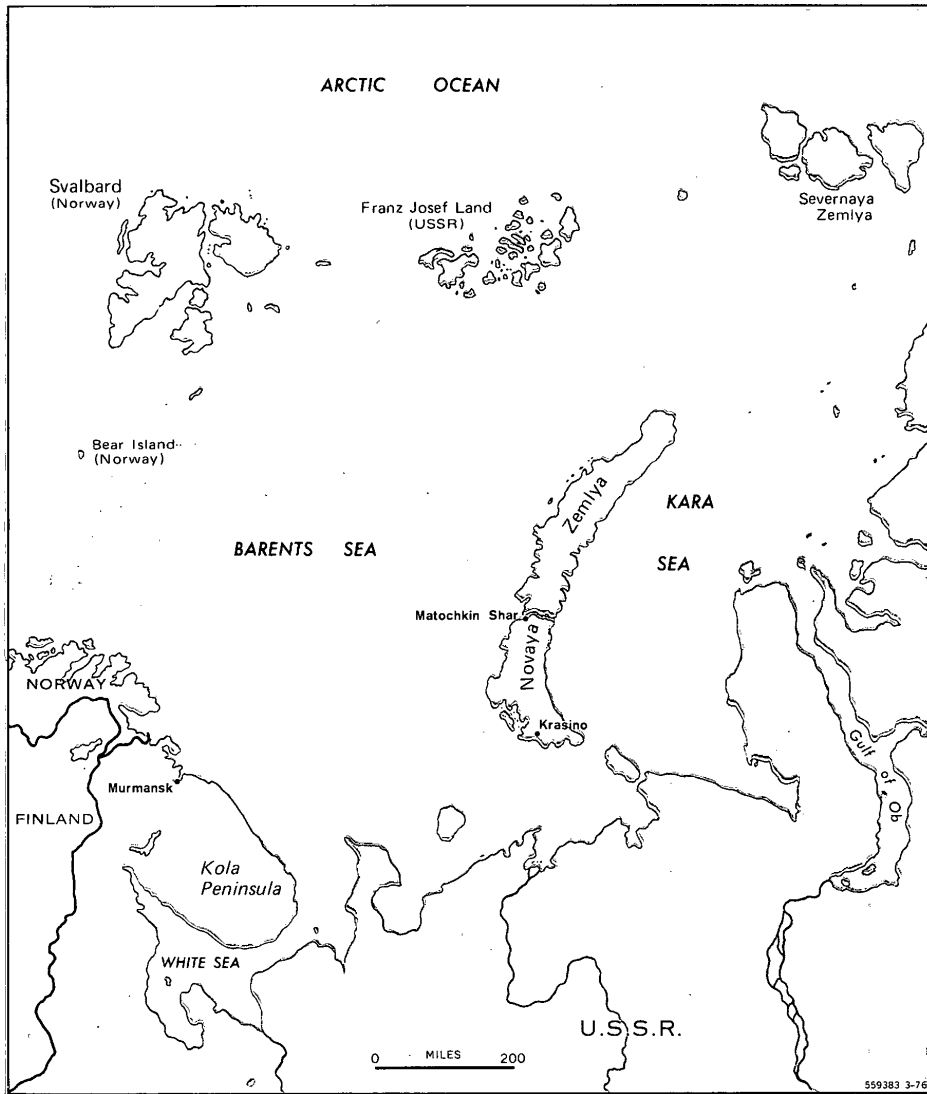
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NOTES

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Turkey is planning another air and naval exercise next week in the vicinity of the Greek island of Lesbos. An exercise held last week ended without incident.

Turkey has requested that air and sea travel be prohibited in the area for four hours on each of the two days the exercise is in progress. This would have the effect of temporarily shutting off Lesbos from the Greek mainland. Athens sees the exercise as a Turkish plan to isolate part of Greece; the defense minister stated last week that the area will not be closed.

The Turks may regard the exercise as a means of re-emphasizing the international character of the air and sea space that separates mainland Greece from the Aegean islands.

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Another breakdown in military discipline in eastern Bangladesh underscores the tenuous control exercised by the Sayem government.

Some troops at a base in Chittagong mutinied last Friday; by yesterday the government claimed it had regained control. It is unclear what provoked the mutinous troops, but there are indications that some of them may have been supporters of the late president Mujib.

The army base in Dacca and other major bases are quiet, but unrest could spread as it did last November. Troops are disenchanted over several issues, including the government's failure to fulfill demands for more pay.

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